

Message Text

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00252 221742Z

44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 221645Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5408

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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EXDIS

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJ: ENERGY: WORKING MEETING OF COORDINATING GROUP

REF: A. STATE 34417; B. STATE 35338

1. WE PASSED POINTS IN REF A ORALLY TO EAMON GALLAGHER IN FONOFF LATE AFTERNOON, FEB 21. PASSED REF B MORNING FEBRUARY 22. IN FUTURE, WOULD BE EASIER FOR US TO GET IRISH TO FOCUS ON DETAILED INFO OF THIS KIND IF WE COULD BE AUTHORIZED TO FOLLOW UP WITH WRITTEN TALKING POINTS.

2. IRISH ARE STILL NOT ABLE TO GIVE US FINAL REPLIES, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY WILL ATTEND MEETING, AND WE GATHER THEY HAVE SAID SO IN BRUSSELS. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, STRONGLY URGED HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATION, BUT GALLAGHER INDICATES THAT IRISH ARE THINKING OF BEING REPRESENTED BY THEIR COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00252 221742Z

JOE SMALL. GALLAGHER COMMENTED THAT IRISH ARE NOT YET PREPARED TO COPE WITH DETAILED MEETING OF KIND OUTLINED IN REF A, AND THEY THINK OTHER SMALL EC COUNTRIES MAY HAVE SAME PROBLEM. IRISH THEREFORE HOPE THAT FEB 25 MEETING IN WASHINGTON WILL,

IN EFFECT, AMOUNT TO A PREPARATORY EXERCISE FOR FULL COORDINATING GROUP RATHER MEETING OF COORDINATING GROUP ITSELF. THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE FIRST FORMAL MEETING OF GROUP IN A EUROPEAN CAPITAL, SO AS TO MINIMIZE APPEARANCE OF GANGING UP ON FRENCH. MEETING IN EUOPRE WOULD ALSO GIVE IRISH TIME TO FINISH HOMEWORK AND SAVE TRAVEL FOR THEIR SENIOR STAFF. FACT IS THAT IRISH HAVE ONLY TWO OR THREE MEN WHO ARE BOTH QUALIFIED AND SENIOR. THESE MEN ARE SPREAD VERY THIN.

2. ON SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS FOR WORKING GROUP, WE HAVE VERY FEW IRISH COMMENTS. GALLAGHER TOLD US THEY WOULD LIKE AS MUCH WORK AS POSSIBLE TO BE DONE IN EXISTING INTERNATIONAL BODIES RATHER THAN THROUGH NEW ORGANIZATIONS, IF ONLY TO CUT DOWN STAFFING PROBLEMS FOR SMALL COUNTRIES. IRISH ALSO AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS SUBJECT IS SENSITIVE FOR FRANCE. NEVERTHELESS, GALLAGHER SAID IRISH ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS NEED FOR WORKING GROUP.

3. COMMENT: IRISH REALLY DO HAVE SERIOUS STAFF PROBLEM, BUT WE GATHER THAT THEY ARE ALSO FOLLOWING LEAD OF EC PARTNERS IN TRYING TO LIMIT SCOPE OF FEBRUARY 25 MEETING. DURING MEETING ITSELF, WE SUPPOSE THAT THEY WILL GO ALONG WITH CONSENSUS OF BIGGER EC COUNTRIES REPRESENTED, POSSIBLY MAKING SOME SPECIAL EFFORTS TO BUILD BRIDGES BACK TO FRANCE. END COMMENT:.

MOORE

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER INSTRUCTIONS SS-O. MR.TWOHIE.

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